



U.S. Department of Justice

**Ronald C. Machen Jr.**  
*United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

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### **District Man Gets Six-Year Prison Term in Attack on Girlfriend - Defendant Was On Parole - And Wearing a GPS Device - For 1990 Rape Conviction -**

WASHINGTON - Paul Settles, 55, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to a six-year prison term on a charge stemming from a sexual attack on his then-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Settles pled guilty in March 2011 to attempted first degree sexual abuse. He was sentenced by the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

During the plea hearing, Settles admitted that, on January 31, 2011, he began arguing with his girlfriend of several months at the residence in which they were living in Northeast Washington. The argument began after she refused to engage in sexual intercourse. Settles began to choke her, and she had trouble breathing. At that point, the victim decided that she had to cooperate to avoid more serious injury. Settles forced the victim to perform oral sex.

At the time of this offense, Settles was a registered sex offender, and was still on parole following a 1990 rape conviction. After he assaulted the victim in this case, he cut off the GPS ankle bracelet that was being used to monitor him during his parole, making it more difficult for authorities to locate and arrest him. He was arrested within a few weeks of the attack.

Settles also pled guilty to a charge of tampering with a detection device, and Judge Leibovitz sentenced him to an additional 180 days of incarceration for that offense.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detective William Weeks. He also recognized the dedicated work of U.S. Attorney's Office Victim Advocate Christina Principe, Paralegal Joyce Arthur, and Legal Assistant Ashley Patterson. Lastly, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Heide L. Herrmann, who investigated and prosecuted the case.